



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277  
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193  
Stephen Moore - IRS CI (313) 234-2410

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Jabbolli Davist**

**Detroit Man Gets Prison for Helping Others Get Fraudulent Tax Refunds**

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Jabbolli Davist, a Detroit man who paid recruiters and persuaded people that they could get a bigger tax refund by filing their tax returns through him was sentenced to 40 months imprisonment followed by two years of supervised release. United States District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff also fined Jabbolli Davist \$2,100 and ordered him to pay restitution of over \$187,000, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Joined in the announcement was Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

This sentence was imposed as the results of Davist's September 6, 2005 guilty plea to a March 17, 2003 indictment charging him with one count of conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service through false claims, 18 counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false claims with the Internal Revenue Service, and two counts of making false statements to IRS criminal investigators.

According to court records, during 1999 through 2002, Davist operated a "refund scheme" where he helped taxpayers obtain fraudulent tax refunds. He found these taxpayers by word of mouth though family or friends and sometimes offered a \$200 to \$500 referral fee to anyone

who brought him a taxpayer. Davist would meet with the taxpayer and get their identification information. Davist would instruct them how to file, providing them with a fraudulent and fictitious W-2. Davist drove the taxpayers to a local tax preparation service where they filed for their fraudulent refunds and requested a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL). Davist required the taxpayers to hand all the tax preparation papers over to him and told them he would let them know when their refund was ready for pickup. Once the RAL check was ready, Davist would notify the taxpayer, driving them to pick up and going with them to cash the RAL check. Davist kept a significant portion of the tax refund for himself. The amount of the fraudulent tax refunds totaled over \$187,000.

"This sentencing represents this office's strong stance against tax fraud. Our office will continue to prosecute and enforce the tax laws. We will take all appropriate action against those who prepare fraudulent tax returns, however, taxpayers are ultimately responsible for their tax returns, regardless of who prepares them. If the return is prepared fraudulently, the taxpayer is liable and can be held responsible for the resulting penalties and interests," United States Attorney Murphy said.

Aquate said, "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously, so be careful who you give your personal information to when it comes to tax preparation. If you participate in a refund fraud scheme, thinking that it is an easy way to make a quick buck, remember, an integral part of IRS's mission involves detecting and catching fraudulent refund claims and putting those responsible in jail.

United States Attorney Murphy thanked the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew J. Schneider.